PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

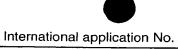
PCT

INTERMIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 9499WO				FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)		
International application No. PCT/EP 03/14316				International filing date		Priority date (day/month/year) 20.12.2002
	nation. B13/		nt Classification (IPC) or b	Loth national classification	and IPC	
Appli ANE		Z FIB	ER DRYING AKTIEB	OLAG et al.		
1.	This Auth	interr nority a	national preliminary exar and is transmitted to the	nination report has bee applicant according to	en prepared by this Article 36.	International Preliminary Examining
2.	This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.					
	This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).					
	The	se anr	nexes consist of a total o	of sheets.		
3.	This	repor	t contains indications re	lating to the following it	ems:	
	i	\boxtimes	Basis of the opinion			
	11		Priority			
	Ш		Non-establishment of o	ppinion with regard to r	ovelty, inventive ste	ep and industrial applicability
	IV		Lack of unity of invention			
	٧	\boxtimes	Reasoned statement u citations and explanation	nder Rule 66.2(a)(ii) w ons supporting such st	ith regard to novelty atement	r, inventive step or industrial applicability;
	VI		Certain documents cited			
	VII		Certain defects in the i	nternational applicatior	1	
	VIII		Certain observations o	n the international app	lication	
Date of submission of the demand					Date of completion of	of this report
01.07.2004					16.09.2004	
Name and mailing address of the international					Authorized Officer	Par-
European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465				66 epmu d	Frank, H Telephone No. +49	89 2399-2695





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l. Basis c	f the r	eport
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1	uic	With regard to the elements of the international application (Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)):									
	De	Description, Pages									
	1-1	2	as originally filed								
	Cla	aims, Numbers									
	1-20		as originally filed								
	Dra	awings, Sheets									
	1/3	-3/3	as originally filed								
2.	Wit lan	With regard to the language , all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.									
	These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:										
		the language of a tr	anslation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).								
			olication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).								
		the language of a translated the Rule 55.2 and/or 55	anslation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under .3).								
3.	Witi inte	h regard to any nucl rnational preliminary	eotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:								
		□ contained in the international application in written form.									
		-									
		furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.									
		The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclos in the international application as filed has been furnished.									
		The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.									
4.	The	amendments have r	resulted in the cancellation of:								
		the description,	pages:								
		the claims,	Nos.:								

sheets:

☐ the drawings,





International application No. PCT/EP 03/14316

	This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).				
	(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to thi report.)				

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)

No:

Yes: Claims Claims 1-20

Inventive step (IS)

No:

Yes: Claims

1-20

Claims

Industrial applicability (IA)

Yes: Claims

1-20

No: Claims

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Claim 1

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The most relevant prior art appears to be document WO-A-82/03450. This document discloses a method for drying or heat treatment of a web-formed material comprising the features of the first part of claim 1.

The remaining method steps of claim 1, which define that

- a first flow of process air is formed, with a cross section extending essentially across the whole width of the web-formed material and the extent of which along the direction of movement of the web-formed material is essentially smaller than its extent perpendicular to the direction of movement of the web-formed material, with a direction of flow essentially perpendicular to the surface of the web-formed material.
- the first flow of process air is divided into a large number of jets directed essentially in a plane defined by the direction of movement and the normal direction of the web-formed material, said jets being distributed over essentially the whole of the angular region facing the web-formed material, and that
- the jets are allowed to mix with one another again into a second flow of process air, which is conducted through the pressure-drop zone and then against and through the web-formed material lying on the gas-permeable dryer screen,

are neither known from nor rendered obvious by the available prior art. It is also credible that such an arrangement provides a better distribution of the drying air through the web-formed material.

The subject-matter of claim 1 would therefore appear to meet the criterion set forth in Article 33 (2 and (3) PCT. The industrial applicability is to be readily recognised due to its intended use.

2. Claim 11

Claim 11 defines basically the method steps of claim 1 in terms of apparatus features. Therefore, above criteria apply also for the independent apparatus claim 11.

The apparatus according to independent apparatus claim 11 is thus also new and inventive and the present application satisfies the criterion set forth in Articles 33(2) and (3) PCT.

3. Claims 2 to 10 and 12 to 20

The dependent claims 2 to 10 and 12 to 20 contain modifications of the inventive idea embodied in claim 1, respectively claim 11 and would also appear to meet the requirements of Articles 33(2) and (3) PCT.

Certain observations on the international application

Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the relevant background art disclosed in the document WO-A-82/03450 is not mentioned in the description, nor is/are this/these document/s identified therein.